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Office of the Mayor

Tutunjian Re-Institutes Semiweekly Downtown **Trash Pickup**

For Immediate Release
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(March 5, 2004- TROY) Mayor Harry Tutunjian announced Friday that semiweekly trash pickup in the downtown districts has been re-instituted after a lapse last year.

When former Mayor Mark Pattison introduced a neighborhood task force in 2003, he announced he was stopping the semiweekly garbage pickup in downtown Troy. With trash being picked up just once per week, the result was a dirtier downtown. Tutunjian said Friday it is clear that the downtown needs semiweekly pickups, and he has received numerous calls about the service.

Tutunjian said the essential ingredient in making the program succeed is residents and businesses only putting trash out 12 hours before pickup. Any earlier and it becomes an unsightly mess.

"The service has been in place since we took office in January and I want to let property owners know that we intend to focus on the downtown in our cleanup efforts," Tutunjian said. "I am happy to remind residents and businesses that trash in the downtown is being picked up on Tuesday and Thursday. We are asking for total cooperation in sticking to the 12-hour rule. It is one that will be enforced."

The reintroduction of program means that garbage is now being picked up five days a week in the central business district. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the alleys are being cleaned by DPW.

The semiweekly pickup is also aided by a program Tutunjian introduced during his first month in office- The Downtown Cleanup plan- which the mayor declared a resounding success on Friday. That program enables Department of Public Works employees to clean up the downtown on Saturday and Sunday mornings working only on comp time. The workers have concentrated on alleys, trash receptacles, and litter.

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“While we have been focusing on the areas outside of downtown recently, we are committed to cleaning the Central Business District up as well,” Tutunjian said. “I have talked to numerous business and property owners who are absolutely excited about the downtown cleanup. And while I am happy about that, I fully understand we have much more work to do in the coming weeks and months.”

Tutunjian stressed Friday that an additional component to the downtown cleanup is an increased monitoring of alleys across the City. Next month Tutunjian will introduce legislation to the City Council stiffening the fine for illegal dumping, and monetarily rewarding the person who turns such violators in.

“If we find people dumping in an alley, we will prosecute them,” Tutunjian said. “If someone else sees a person illegally dumping, we will prosecute them, and reward the person for turning them in. Just because we are picking up our alleys three times a week, does not mean we have given an open invite for people to come to Troy and dump their trash. The exact opposite is true, and enforcement will prove that.”